



MEMO



N O R T H C A R O L I N A D I V I S I O N O F
E M E R G E N C Y M A N A G E M E N T

HAZCollect to Phase In Availability

HazCollect is the National Weather Service's (NWS) all hazards emergency message collection system. The system is a comprehensive national solution for centrally collecting and distributing non-weather emergency messages. The emergency messages are created and originated by official emergency response agencies on the local and state levels and then transmitted to the general public through NOAA weather radios or the state emergency alert system.

The new system will be introduced to the country in five phases. The first phase started April 30th and the last phase begins July 1st. North Carolina is part of phase two which begins May 26th. During this time, agencies can request approval and receive training on how to operate the system.

HazCollect uses common alerting protocol (CAP) to interface with various early warning systems used by government agencies. This protocol is a markup language based data format for exchanging public warnings and emergencies messages among alerting technologies. The common alerting protocol allows a warning message to be consistently disseminated simultaneously over many warning systems to many applications. It also increases warning effectiveness and simplifies the task of activating a warning. The Federal

Communications Committee, which regulates television, cable, radio and satellite broadcasters in the United States, has mandated that all broadcaster become CAP compliant to ensure message and system compatibility among all federal, state, local and private alert warning systems.

HazCollect will interface with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster management open platform for emergency networks interoperability infrastructure. This interface will allow the federal government to send secure national emergency alert



messages simultaneously to all broadcasters in the country.

The NWS warning coordination meteorologists are serving as points of contact for HazCollect questions. North Carolina's point of contact is Jeff Orrock in the Raleigh NWS office.

The FEMA disaster management program is driving the operation of HazCollect by serving as the delivery mechanism that will route the emergency messages from FEMA to the HazCollect computer servers. The message is routed through the Dimensional Measuring Interface Standard. This standard is used to make sure the message from FEMA's disaster management open platform is accepted and processed by the HazCollect system. From HazCollect, the message is sent to the National Weather Service and then finally to the general public via weather radios, emergency alert system, private vendor warning systems and mobile technology such as cell phone, pagers and computers.

In addition to serving as a mechanism for the president to send a nationwide alert, HazCollect is designed to give any authorized user at the local, city, tribal and state level the capability to deliver an emergency alert to a specific area of the state when needed. Further explanation and direction will be coming from NC Emergency Management on how this capability will be handled to ensure consistency with the state's current operation of the emergency alert system.

For more information, contact Cory Grier, NCEM at 919-733-3824 or cgrier@ncem.org.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hurricane Preparedness Week	Pg 2
Moore County Exercise	Pg 2
FEMA's Ready Classroom	Pg 3
VIPER Console	Pg 4
New Area One Coordinator	Pg 4
Haywood County Exercise	Pg 4
New RRT Truck	Pg 5
Sea Level Rise Project	Pg 6
VIPER Site Activations	Pg 7
Useful Websites	Pg 7

Hurricane Preparedness Week



Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 24-30. During the week, various federal and state emergency agencies will be talking about their activities in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th. Citizens and businesses are urged to start preparing to reduce the disastrous effects of a hurricane.

The National Weather Service (NWS) will highlight five different subjects during the week. Sunday will feature the history of hurricanes beginning with Galveston Hurricane in 1900 (from 1900 to 1944, hurricanes were names for the land area they hit). Monday through Wednesday, the NWS will cover the hazards associated with hurricanes such as storm surge, high winds and flooding. Thursday's topic will focus on the forecast process in predicting the storm activity for the 2009 hurricane season and the types of information given to state and local government officials. Friday will focus on what citizens can do to prepare themselves and their loved ones for the hurricane season including how to develop a plan, assemble a disaster kit and other helpful information. On Saturday, the NWS will encourage everyone to start preparing now for the upcoming season.

North Carolina is preparing for the upcoming season by holding several meetings and exercises. For more information, contact Julia Jarema, NCEM PIO at 919-715-3747 or jjarema@nccrimecontrol.org.

Moore County Exercise

On April 22nd, Moore County held an exercise to test and demonstrate large scale communication interoperability with multiple users while using the voice interoperability plan for emergency responders, or VIPER, network. The exercise was called "DPR6 COMMEX" and had three objectives:

- 1 – For all county participants to establish communication with other county participants.
- 2 – For all county participants to establish communication with all state and federal participants.
- 3 – For all state and federal participants to establish communication with other state and federal participants.

Participants in the exercise had to assemble in communication units at a single location to establish communication with each other using hand held radios. More than 25 agencies and organizations participated in the exercise, half of which were county emergency management agencies.

For more information, contact Woody Mashburn at 919-218-0816 or wmashburn@ncem.org.

Ready Classroom Teaches Emergency Preparedness

Article taken from US DHS news release.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Ad Council have joined with Discovery Education to announce *Ready Classroom*, an online educational program.

Ready Classroom will provide elementary and middle school teachers with resources to integrate natural disaster preparedness information into their curriculum. The program is an extension of *Ready Kids*, a nationwide effort designed to encourage children and families to take action and prepare for emergencies.

The online resource, www.discoveryeducation.com/readyclassroom, provides teachers with activities, lesson plans and multimedia tools that teach students how natural disasters develop and inspires them to build their own emergency preparedness plans with their families. The site features grade-specific lesson plans (K-8), videos, games, puzzles and bulletin board recommendations.

"Engaging with children on the topic of emergency preparedness in conjunction with the science curriculum taught in schools is an effective way to bring home the preparedness message," said Corey Gruber, Acting Deputy Administrator of FEMA's National Preparedness Directorate. "This program with Discovery Education will empower children and families to take the important steps necessary to minimize the impact of a disaster and, ultimately, continue our efforts to encourage a culture of preparedness."

To coincide with the launch of the site, Discovery Education is promoting this new resource online at www.discoveryeducation.com and to elementary and middle school educators nationwide through its professional learning community, the Discovery Educator Network.

"This is a wonderful extension of *Ready Kids* that will educate teachers, students and families about possible emergencies that may affect their schools and communities," said Peggy Conlon, president and CEO of the Ad Council. "Through these interactive tools teachers will help motivate their students to take the steps necessary to be prepared."

Ready Kids is an extension of the *Ready Campaign*, which engages Americans in taking three simple steps to be prepared for emergencies: (1) Get an emergency supply kit; (2) Make a family emergency plan; and (3) Be informed about the types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses.

"Discovery Education is pleased to partner with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Ad Council to bring this important information into America's classrooms," said Mary Rollins, Discovery Education Vice President of Education Partnerships. "By educating children about the science behind natural disasters through high-quality digital content, Ready Kids helps educators better engage students on emergency preparedness issues."

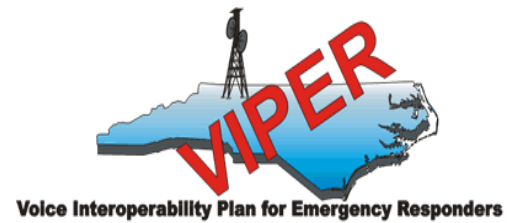
By following simple preparedness steps in advance, Americans can reduce the impact of emergencies on themselves, their family and their businesses. Individuals can visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY, to access free materials that will help them prepare their families.

February 2009 marked the Ready Campaign's sixth year at the Department of Homeland Security. The campaign is now managed under the Department's Federal Emergency Management Agency. Launched in 2003 in partnership with The Advertising Council, Ready is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

North Carolina Emergency Management has brochures and pamphlets on emergency preparedness. For more information, call Cory Grier at 919-733-3824 or cgrier@ncem.org.

New VIPER Console for the Communications Center

The North Carolina division of Emergency Management's 24-hour operations center will receive a new communications console in June that will work with the VIPER system. The new console will give the division true interoperability and enables access to up to 100 talk groups at any given time. The division also will manage the 16 state event talk groups which allows for interoperable communications among multi-discipline, multi-jurisdictional emergency response agencies.



For more information on VIPER, go to www.nccrimecontrol.org/VIPER or contact Capt. Alan Melvin, NC State Highway Patrol at 919-662-4440 or amelvin@ncshp.org. For more information on the new communications console, contact Clay Benton at 919-715-4264 or cbenton@ncem.org.

New Area Coordinator

Christopher Gwin was introduced as the new Area One Coordinator for northeastern North Carolina. The territory includes Bertie, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford and Perquimans counties. Chris comes to the division from a Navy background. He now resides in Elizabeth City.

Chris can be reached at 252-702-0300 or cgwin@ncem.org. His pager number is 1-877-751-6771 and VIPER call sign is 1961.

Haywood County's 30-hour Exercise

On April 24th, members from city, local, state and federal agencies joined together in a 30-hour exercise to simulate a full-scale, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional and multi-state response to a natural disaster involving I-40. The exercise was designed to prepare agencies for the potential of a real-life catastrophic loss of infrastructure if I-40 was ever damaged.

"Our objectives for the exercise was to evaluate our ability to plan, communicate, operate and function within an unified command system and to test our ability to put such a system in place in the event of a real danger," said Greg Shuping, Haywood County Emergency Manager. "This was the first time we've done anything of this proportion in Haywood County."

Shuping added, "Everything we've been working on for the last few years was put to the test through this exercise."

The exercise was financed through a \$60,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The scenario involved a large scale earthquake that caused a tunnel along I-40 to collapse, resulting in multiple injuries and fatalities.

"It was a great training and learning experience for the responders," said Jimmie Ramsey, NCEM Area 14 Coordinator.

For more information, contact Jimmie Ramsey at 828-649-0328 or jramsey@ncem.org.

New Regional Response Team Truck Used in Exercise

On April 7th, more than 150 participants from 12 agencies and organizations took part in a one-day exercise to learn how well emergency personnel could respond to a campus shooting spree. The exercise provided a training opportunity for local, county, state and private agencies to jointly prepare for, respond to and recover from a dangerous situation on a school campus and at the same time deal with the discovery of a hazardous material.

“This is the largest such exercise we’ve done and it gives us an opportunity to test our abilities and work collaboratively with various agencies and resources,” said Mooresville Interim Police Chief Carl Robbins.

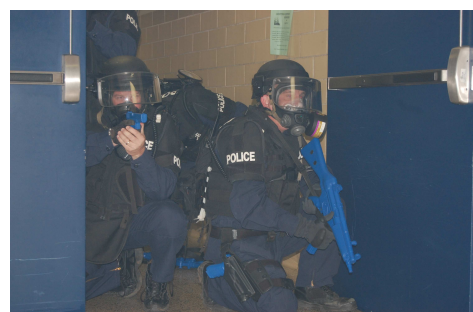
The scenario included an unidentified gunman that entered Mooresville Senior High School and began shooting at students and faculty. The result was several fatalities, injuries and hostages. The gunman then releases a hazardous material, hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic and flammable gas that affects breathing and the central nervous system.

The release of the hazardous material provided an opportunity for N.C. Emergency Management to unveil it’s newly rebuilt Regional Response Team (RRT) truck. Housed at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fire Department, the RRT truck is the seventh one to be positioned throughout North Carolina. Regional Response Teams are trained and equipped to respond to hazardous materials related events. The new truck includes a new tractor, new wiring for the trailer and additional emergency lighting for the trailer in order to meet national fire protection association’s standards. The \$174,000 upgrade was paid with state funds. All RRT trucks come with state-of-the-art communications, a work area, generator, floodlights and air-pack refilling station, as well as other equipment and supplies.

The RRT program was developed as a resource to protect citizens and responders from hazardous materials by identify substances and working to contain any release or runoff until a cleanup contractor is on scene.

“No one wants to think about the worst case scenarios,” said Mike Cook, western branch manager for N.C. Emergency Management. “But the reality is the more we can train and prepare, the better we can respond when a disaster strikes.

For more information on the exercise, contact Chief Wes Green, Mooresville Fire Department at 704-664-1338. For more information on the RRT program, contact Amy Ikerd at 919-715-0465 or aikerd@ncem.org.



Sea Level Rise Project

Article taken from US DHS news release.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded \$5 million to the state of North Carolina for a statewide risk assessment and mitigation strategy demonstration of the potential impacts of sea level rise caused by climate change.

In announcing the award, FEMA Regional Administrator Phil May said the information and results from this study may help formulate strategies to deal with potential effects of sea level rise along all of the nation's coastlines.

FEMA also will use the results of this study to assess the long-term fiscal implications of climate change as it affects the frequency and effects of natural disasters. Information from the study will be shared with other states to be included in their climate change mitigation efforts.

"North Carolina has been very proactive in implementing and improving upon coastal zone management activities and policies," May said. "Although the study is focused on just the state of North Carolina, the results of the study should be applicable to other coastal states as well.

In addition, the study will complement an existing study currently being performed by FEMA which focuses on the effect of climate change on the National Flood Insurance Program.

FEMA's Mitigation Directorate administers the National Flood Insurance Program. This insurance, mapping and land use program provides the availability of federally-backed flood insurance to home and business owners located in participating communities.

North Carolina's Office of Geospatial and Technology Management, a division of Emergency Management, will manage the study. The division oversees the state's floodplain mapping and management programs.

Twenty North Carolina counties border the Atlantic Ocean, including 70 miles of low-lying barrier islands. While these counties house just 10 percent of the state's population, they host many thousands of tourists who support one of the state's largest industries. In 2005, visitors spent more than \$2 billion in coastal communities that are vulnerable to storms and hurricanes.

In September 2003, Hurricane Isabel breached one of the barrier islands in North Carolina. Damage in the state totaled \$450 million, most of which was in Dare County where thousands of homes were washed away. The storm surge produced a 2,000-foot wide inlet on Hatteras Island, isolating Hatteras by road for two months.

Hurricane Floyd, in 1999, was a Category 2 hurricane when it hit Cape Fear, packing a 10-foot storm surge. Floyd claimed the lives of 56 people as it moved along the coast, and caused more than \$6 billion in damage. Most of the deaths and damage were due to flooding that amounted to 19 inches in some parts of the state.

Recent studies show that hurricanes are becoming more powerful and more numerous, and this trend is expected to continue as the planetary temperature continues to increase. Coastal residents will experience sea level rise and higher storm surges that reach further inland.

The assessment North Carolina is conducting for FEMA will help to project how high the sea levels will rise and how much of the coastline will be inundated. For more information, contact John Dorman at 919-715-5711, ext 102 or Jdorman@necm.org.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.NCEM.ORG



**NORTH CAROLINA
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Email: cgrier@ncem.org

The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management was formed in 1977 to coordinate the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities of all agencies for emergency management within North Carolina. It performs this mission by planning, organizing, staffing, equipping, training, testing and activating emergency management programs during times of need.

"In the Business of Saving Lives and Protecting Property"

VIPER Site Activations

Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) is a way for first responders and public safety officials from multiple agencies to communicate with one another on a single radio system without having to relay messages through a communications center. When put in place, interoperable communications will benefit all public safety agencies when dealing with daily emergency calls and large scale disasters.

The VIPER program began in 2007 with 238 sites planned for statewide coverage. Currently, the VIPER program is 55% complete. For more information on VIPER, go to www.nccrimecontrol.org/VIPER or contact Captain Alan Melvin, NC State Highway Patrol at 919-662-4440 or amelvin@ncshp.org.

Fisher's Peak / Surry County / 131st site constructed and operational.

Websites for Information

WEBSITE

www.fema.gov
www.nemaweb.org
www.emaponline.org
www.emacweb.org
www.nccrimecontrol.org
www.nws.noaa.gov
www.ncsparta.net
www.readync.com
<http://apps.dot.state.nc.us/tims/>
www.redcross.org
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster/>
<http://149.168.212.15/NcVOAD/index.htm>
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
<http://gcmd.gsfc.nasa.gov/records/NASA-NDRD.html>
<http://www.freshstart.ncat.org/>
<http://training.fema.gov/>

AGENCY

Federal Emergency Management Agency
National Emergency Management Association
Emergency Management Accreditation Program
Emergency Management Assistance Compact
NC Dept of Crime Control and Public Safety
National Weather Service
Web EOC
NC Dept of Crime Control and Public Safety
NC Dept of Transportation Statewide Road Information
American Red Cross
NC Cooperative Extension
NC Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
National Hurricane Center
Natural Disaster Reference Database
NC Center for Appropriate Technology
Emergency Management Institute